

Serial No. : 09/765,893
Filed : January 18, 2001

Applicant proposes amending the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicant proposes amending the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling access of a user to a gateway server having a first data structure and server communications device providing connectivity via a telecommunications network to one or more destination hosts, comprising:

said gateway server receiving a profile identifier;

said gateway server accessing a profile stored in a database at said gateway server at the first data structure based on corresponding to the profile identifier, said profile containing one or more access criteria, at least one of said criteria measuring a dynamically decrementable resource, ~~said decrementable resource being capable of incrementation~~, said criteria being resolved ~~wholly at~~ by said gateway server based solely on said profile identifier received at said gateway server and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server, independent of any criteria necessitated by said telecommunications networks or destination host;

if said gateway server determines said access criteria are satisfied, said gateway server allowing said user access to said telecommunications network; and

if said gateway server determines said access criteria are not satisfied, or during said access to said telecommunications network said gateway server determines said access criteria become unsatisfied, said gateway server denying or terminating, respectively, said user access to said telecommunications network.

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2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said access criteria is time of day.

3. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said access criteria is day of the week.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said profile additionally contains an account balance available to the user and the gateway server continuously decrements said account balance by the time elapsed during access to the telecommunications network.

5. (original) In the method of claim 1 in which the user communicates to the gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the step of receiving a profile identifier comprising the gateway server receiving automatic number identification data from a public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which a user is connecting.

6. (currently amended) A method for controlling access of a computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to telecommunications lines to a one or more destination hosts via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address, comprising:

providing removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable media storing an address for accessing said gateway server and a profile identifier;

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providing a database at the first data structure storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including one or more access criteria, at least one of which represents sufficiency of a dynamically decrementable resource, ~~such decrementable resource being capable of incrementation, said criteria being resolved wholly at said gateway server, independent of any criteria necessitated by said telecommunications networks or destination host;~~

said computer terminal accessing said gateway server at said predetermined address via said telecommunications lines;

said gateway server receiving a profile identifier at said server communications device and validating said profile identifier at said gateway server;

said gateway server accessing a profile associated with said profile identifier received;

said gateway server determining whether said access criteria are satisfied;

if said access criteria in a profile associated with said requesting computer terminal are satisfied, said gateway server allowing said requesting computer terminal access to said destination hosts via said telecommunications lines based solely on the ~~information~~ profile identifier stored on said computer readable media and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server, monitoring said access, and terminating said access should said decrementable resource become exhausted; and

if said access criteria in a profile associated with said requesting computer terminal are not satisfied, said gateway server denying said requesting computer terminal access to said destination hosts.

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7. (previously amended) The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of said access criteria is time of day.

8. (previously amended) The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of said access criteria is day of the week.

9. (previously amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said profile additionally contains an account balance available to said computer terminal and said gateway server decrements said account balance by the time elapsed during access to said computer network.

10. (previously amended) In the method of claim 6 in which at least one of said computer terminals communicates to said gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the step of receiving a profile identifier comprising said gateway server receiving automatic number identification data from a public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which said computer terminal is connecting.

11. (currently amended) A system for controlling access of one or more computer terminals to a telecommunications network which, in turn, provides connectivity to one or more destinations hosts, comprising:

a gateway server having access to said telecommunications network, said gateway server having a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address;

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said computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said public communications lines;

removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, the computer readable media storing:

(a) an address for accessing said gateway server; ~~and~~

(b) a profile identifier; and

~~(b)~~(c) programming instructions directing said computer terminal to access said gateway server at said stored address via said telecommunications lines; and
a first data structure at ~~the~~ said gateway server storing:

~~(a)~~(i) a database storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including one or more access criteria, at least one of which represents sufficiency of a dynamically decrementable resource, ~~such decrementable resource being capable of incrementation, said criteria being resolved wholly at said gateway server, independent of any criteria necessitated by said networks or destination host;~~

~~(b)~~(ii) programming instructions directing the receipt of said profile identifier at said server communications device;

(iii) programming instructions validating said profile identifier at said gateway server;

~~(c)~~(iv) programming instructions directing the accessing of said profile identified by said profile identifier;

~~(d)~~(v) programming instructions determining whether said access criteria are satisfied;

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(e)(vi) programming instructions disconnecting ~~the~~ said computer terminal if said access criteria are not satisfied; and

(f)(vii) programming instructions allowing said computer terminal telecommunications network access if said access criteria are satisfied based solely on the ~~information~~ profile identifier stored on said computer readable media and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server, said access subject to reverification to terminate access should said decrementable resource become exhausted.

12. (previously amended) The system of claim 11 wherein at least one of said access criteria is time of day.

13. (previously amended) The system of claim 11 wherein at least one of said access criteria is day of the week.

14. (previously amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said profile additionally contains an account balance available to said user and the gateway server decrements said account balance by the time elapsed during access to said telecommunications network.

15. (previously amended) In the system of claim 14 in which said computer terminal includes a display, the system further comprising programming instructions stored at said first data structure directing the gateway server to transmit data representing said account balance to said computer terminal for display thereat.

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16. (previously amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said telecommunications lines include a public switched telephone network and said profile identifier includes automatic number identification data from said public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which said computer terminal is connecting.

17. (currently amended) A method for controlling access of one or more computer terminals having a terminal communications device connected by telecommunications lines to a telecommunications network via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address for providing connectivity of said one or more computer terminals to one or more destination hosts, comprising:

providing removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable media storing an address for accessing said gateway server, a profile identifier, and programming instructions directing said computer terminal to access said gateway server at said stored address via said telecommunications lines;

providing a database at said gateway server at said first data structure storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile containing one or more access criteria, at least one of which provides one or more permissible access time periods;

said computer terminal accessing said gateway server at said predetermined address via said telecommunications lines;

said gateway server receiving a profile identifier at said server communications device and validating said profile identifier at said gateway server;

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providing a chronometer at said gateway server and determining the time of day of said computer terminal access;

said gateway server accessing said profile stored at said gateway server correlated to associated with said profile identifier stored on said removable computer readable media and received from said computer terminal;

said gateway server determining whether said computer terminal access has occurred during a permissible access time period;

if the computer terminal access has occurred during a permissible access time period as specified in said profile, said gateway server allowing said requesting computer terminal access to said telecommunications network based solely on the information profile identifier stored on said computer readable media and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server, said access subject to reverification to ensure that said access is terminated beyond said permissible access period or periods as provided in said profile; and

if said computer terminal access has not occurred during a permissible access time period as provided in said profile, said gateway server denying said requesting computer terminal access to said telecommunications network.

18. (previously amended) In the method of claim 17 in which at least one of said computer terminals communicates to said gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the step of receiving information identifying said computer terminal comprising said gateway server receiving automatic number identification data from a public switched telephone network identifying said telephone number from which said computer terminal is requesting access.

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19. (currently amended) A system for controlling access of one or more computer terminals to a telecommunications network providing connectivity to one or more destination hosts, comprising:

a gateway server having access to said telecommunications network, said gateway server having a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address;

a chronometer communicating with said gateway server;

said computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said public communications lines;

removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said computer readable media storing:

(a) an address for accessing said gateway server; ~~and~~

(b) a profile identifier; and

~~(b)~~(c) programming instructions directing said computer terminal to access said gateway server at said stored address via said telecommunications lines; and
a first data structure at ~~the~~ said gateway server storing:

~~(a)~~(i) a database storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including one or more access criteria, at least one of which provides one or more permissible access time periods;

~~(b)~~(ii) programming instructions directing the receipt of said profile identifier at said server communications device;

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(iii) programming instructions validating said profile identifier at said gateway server;

(e)(iv) programming instructions directing communication with said chronometer to determine the time of day of said computer terminal access;

(d)(v) programming instructions directing the accessing of said profile stored at said gateway server identified by said profile identifier stored at said removable computer readable media at said computer terminal;

(e)(vi) programming instructions determining whether said access meets said criteria as provided in said profile identifier including whether said request was received during a permissible access time period;

(f)(vii) programming instructions disconnecting said computer terminal if said criteria as provided in said profile are not satisfied; and

(g)(viii) programming instructions allowing said computer terminal telecommunications network access if said criteria as ~~provided~~ stored in said profile at said gateway server corresponding to said profile identifier have been satisfied, subject to periodic reverification to ensure that access continues to meet said criteria.

20. (original) In the system of claim 19 wherein said telecommunications lines include a public switched telephone network and said profile identifier includes automatic number identification data from said public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which a computer terminal is connecting.

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21. (currently amended) A method for controlling access of one or more computer terminals having a terminal communications device connected via telecommunications lines to a telecommunications network via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address providing connectivity to one or destination hosts, comprising:

providing removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable media storing a profile identifier and instructions and an address for accessing said gateway server;

providing a database at said gateway server at said first data structure storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including one or more access criteria, at least one of which provides an account balance;

said computer terminal accessing said gateway server at said predetermined address via said telecommunications lines;

said gateway server receiving said profile identifier at said server communications device and validating said profile identifier at said gateway server;

said gateway server accessing said profile stored at said gateway server correlated to ~~associated with~~ said profile identifier stored at said removable computer readable media received from said computer terminal;

said gateway server determining said criteria have been satisfied, including whether a balance remains in the account in said profile;

if said criteria are satisfied, including an account balance remaining in the profile, said gateway server allowing said requesting computer terminal access to said telecommunications

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network based solely on the profile identifier information stored on said computer readable media and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server, said access subject to periodic reverification to terminate access should said criteria no longer be satisfied;

if said criteria are not satisfied, said gateway server denying said requesting computer terminal access to said telecommunications network; and

said gateway server periodically updating said profile and decrementing said account balance as said balance is utilized.

22. (previously amended) In the method of claim 21 in which said computer terminal includes a display, the method further comprising the gateway server transmitting data to said computer terminal representing said account balance for display thereat.

23. (previously amended) In the method of claim 21 in which at least one of said computer terminals communicates to said gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the step of receiving information identifying said computer terminal comprising said gateway server receiving automatic number identification data from a public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which a computer terminal is requesting.

24. (previously amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising said gateway server timing said telecommunications network access and continuously decrementing said account balance by the time elapsed during access to said telecommunications network.

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25. (currently amended) A system for controlling access of one or more computer terminals to a telecommunications network providing connectivity to one or more destination hosts, comprising:

a gateway server having access to said telecommunications network, said gateway server having a server communications device accessible via telecommunications lines at a predetermined address;

a computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said public communications lines;

removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said computer readable media storing:

(a) an address for accessing said gateway server; ~~and~~

(b) a profile identifier; and

~~(b)~~(c) programming instructions directing said computer terminal to access said gateway server at said stored address via said telecommunications lines; and
a first data structure at ~~the~~ said gateway server storing:

~~(a)~~(i) a database storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including one or more access criteria, at least one of which provides an account balance;

~~(b)~~(ii) programming instructions directing the receipt of said profile identifier at said server communications device;

(iii) programming instructions validating said profile identifier at said gateway server;

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(c)(iv) programming instructions directing the accessing of said profile identified by said profile identifier;

(d)(v) programming instructions determining whether said criteria are satisfied, including whether a balance remains in the account in the accessed profile;

(e)(vi) programming instructions disconnecting ~~the~~ said computer terminal if said criteria are not satisfied; and

(f)(vii) programming instructions allowing the computer terminal telecommunications network access if said criteria are satisfied based solely on the profile identifier information stored on said computer readable media and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server, said access subject to periodic reverification to ensure that access is terminated should said criteria no longer be satisfied; and

(g)(viii) said gateway server periodically updating said profile and decrementing said account balance as said balance is utilized.

26. (previously amended) In the system of claim 25 in which said computer terminal includes a display, the system further comprising programming instructions stored at said first data structure directing said gateway server to transmit data representing said account balance to said computer terminal for display thereat.

27. (previously amended) In the system of claim 25 in which at least one of said computer terminals communicates to said gateway server via a public switched telephone network, the

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programming instructions directing receipt of information from a computer terminal comprising said gateway server receiving automatic number identification data from said public switched telephone network identifying the telephone number from which said computer terminal is requesting access.

28. (currently amended) A method for controlling access of one or more computer terminals, said computer terminal operating under the direction of an operating system, having a terminal communications device connected via public telecommunications lines to a telecommunications network via a gateway server having a first data structure and a server communications device accessible via public telecommunications lines at a predetermined address, providing connectivity to one or more destination hosts on the Internet, comprising:

providing removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said readable media storing an address for accessing said gateway server and a profile identifier;

providing a database at said gateway server at said first data structure storing at least one profile correlated to a profile identifier, said profile including one or more an access criteria;

programming instructions stored at the removable computer readable media directing the operating system at the computer terminal to access said gateway server at the stored address via said telecommunications lines without storing said programming instructions at the computer terminal;

programming instructions stored at the removable computer readable media directing the operating system at said computer terminal to transmit said stored profile identifier to said gateway server without storing said programming instructions at said computer terminal;

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said gateway server accessing said profile stored at said gateway server associated with said profile identifier received from said computer terminal;

the gateway server determining whether said access criteria in ~~the~~ said profile are satisfied;

if said access criteria are not satisfied, said gateway server denying said requesting computer terminal access to the Internet;

if said access criteria are satisfied, said gateway server allowing said requesting computer terminal access to the Internet based solely on the ~~information~~ profile identifier stored on said computer readable media and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server and without requiring said user to input any information at said computer terminal; and

said gateway server monitoring said Internet access and disconnecting said computer terminal if at any time during the Internet access said access criteria are not satisfied.

29. (previously amended) The method of claim 28 wherein one of said access criteria is the account balance of time.

30. (previously amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said profile further includes predefined content criteria, the method further comprising monitoring said Internet access and intercepting any Internet transmissions defined in said content criteria.

31. (previously amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said computer terminal utilizes an Internet browser to receive Internet transmissions, said method further comprising programming

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instructions at said removable computer readable media directing the launch of said Internet browser and directing said Internet browser to a predetermined Internet address.

32. (currently amended) A system for controlling a user's access to the Internet, comprising:

a gateway server having access to the Internet, said gateway server having a server communications device accessible via public telecommunications lines at a predetermined address, said gateway server providing access to one or more destination domain hosts on the Internet;

a computer terminal having a terminal communications device connected to said public telecommunications lines, said computer terminal operating under the direction of an operating system;

removable computer readable media at said computer terminal, said computer readable media storing:

- (a) an address for accessing said gateway server;
 - (b) programming instructions directing said operating system to access said gateway server at said stored address via said public telecommunications lines without storing said programming instructions at said computer terminal;
 - (c) a profile identifier; and
 - (d) programming instructions directing the transmission of said profile identifier to said gateway server without storing said programming instructions at said computer terminal; and
- a first data structure at said gateway server storing:

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(a)(i) a database storing at least one profile correlated to said profile identifier, said profile including one or more access criteria;

(b)(ii) programming instructions directing the receipt of said profile identifier at said server communications device and the access of said profile identified by said profile identifier;

(iii) programming instructions validating said profile identifier at said gateway server;

(c)(iv) programming instructions determining whether said access criteria are satisfied;

(d)(v) programming instructions disconnecting said computer terminal if said access criteria are not satisfied;

(e)(vi) programming instructions allowing the computer terminal Internet access if said access criteria are satisfied based solely on the profile identifier information stored on said computer readable media and the profile corresponding thereto stored at said gateway server and without requiring said user to input any information at said computer terminal; and

(f)(vii) programming instructions monitoring said Internet access and disconnecting said computer terminal if at any time during said Internet access said access ~~criterion~~ criteria are no longer satisfied.

33. (previously amended) The system of claim 32 wherein at least one of the access criteria is the account balance of time.

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34. (previously amended) The system of claim 32 wherein said profile further includes predefined content criteria, said system further comprising programming instructions at said gateway server directing said gateway server to monitor said Internet access and intercept any Internet transmissions defined in said content criteria.

35. (previously amended) The system of claim 32 further comprising:

Internet browser at said computer terminal receiving Internet transmissions; and
programming instructions at said removable computer readable media directing the launch of said Internet browser and directing said Internet browser to a predetermined Internet address after said Internet access is allowed by said gateway server.